



Arlington Open Space Committee

Date: June 22, 2023.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

Present: Wendy Richter, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, David Morgan, Ann LeRoy, Brian McBride, Emily Nink, David White.

Absent: Shirley Canniff, Eliza Hatch, Brian Kelder, Nelson Mui.

Minutes.

1. Administrative.
 - a. Approval of May 25, 2023 meeting minutes.

The draft minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.
 - b. Guidelines for ADA online compliance.

D. Morgan had circulated guidelines for Town committees to follow in preparing their agendas and minutes. The current OSC format seems to be in compliance, and it will be reviewed to ensure it meets requirements (including periods at the end of every line item).
 - c. Other items.

No other items were discussed.
2. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) & CPA Implementation (Action Items).
 - a. OSRP Objectives - Implementation priorities.

E. Carr-Jones had prepared a summary of responses to two recent townwide surveys concerning open space: the OSC's 2021 online survey to gather information for the OSRP; and the 2023 Envision Arlington survey questions on uses of open spaces and resiliency concerns. A high correlation was found in responses to both surveys, giving the committee consensus on several specific OSRP goals and objectives to pursue. Members will form subcommittees to follow-up with other responsible parties involved in related projects. Further discussion touched on researching small, town-owned vacant properties and other nontraditional open space ideas to help increase access, especially in denser neighborhoods.
 - b. Planning for CPA Projects (No Name Brook, Orchard Signage).

D. Morgan has RFPs ready to be circulated in early July for both projects. OSC members will help review the proposals, and public workshops for the projects will be planned in the fall.



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- c. MBTA Communities.
B. McBride raised concerns about the MBTA Communities planning process and the need to incorporate open space as part of the zoning changes being proposed. A subcommittee of B. McBride, E. Carr-Jones, W. Richter and A. LeRoyer will work on a letter from OSC to the MBTA Working Group and Planning Department about these issues.
 - d. Town Day 2023.
Arlington Town Day will be held on Saturday, September 23. OSC will have a booth adjacent to the Conservation Commission and Arlington Land Trust. A. LeRoyer will coordinate the planning and display materials with E. Carr-Jones and W. Richter.
 - e. Other Items.
D. White reported on the Arlington Heights Spring Fling on June 10. He had offered to share OSC information with the Reservoir booth, but the event was cancelled due to heavy rain.
3. Updates from Liaisons.
- a. Department of Planning and Community Development.
D. Morgan reported that he had ordered more copies of the OSRP to be printed and shared with Town staff and committees. The department is still seeking several new staff and is largely focused on the MBTA project.
 - b. Park and Recreation Commission.
S. Canniff was not present to report, but B. McBride noted that the Hill's Hill working group had not yet begun meeting about the proposed CPA project for mountain biking trails.
 - c. Conservation Commission.
D. Morgan shared ongoing concerns about Arlington 360's delays in complying with the Conservation Restriction at the former Symmes property. He and the Land Trust (co-holders of the CR) are working to get the arborist report and boundary survey completed this summer. D. Morgan also noted that water chestnut harvesting at the Reservoir is scheduled for early July.
 - d. Department of Public Works.
D. Morgan reported that the new administrative building has opened, but other work is continuing on the Grove Street site. Some programs, including recycling, remain at the Ryder Street site.



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- e. Envision Arlington.
E. Carr-Jones attended the recent Sustainable Arlington subcommittee meeting, at which members discussed revisiting SA's mission and project focus. OSC and SA have many overlapping concerns and members will continue to share plans.
- f. Arlington Redevelopment Board.
W. Richter reported that the MBTA Communities project is ARB's current priority. She will continue to attend meetings and share OSC's concerns about balancing new development with increased demand for open space around the new buildings, as well as opportunities for new or enhanced public open spaces.
- g. Other Committees.
E. Carr-Jones reported on the Tree Committee. Resident Barbara Thornton had met with the committee to discuss planting elm trees around Park Circle. Park and Recreation Commission will also be involved with any plantings as it oversees that property.

D. White noted that the Save the Alewife Brook Committee had helped get state legislation in process to address the longstanding problems of CSOs in the brook directly affecting abutters in East Arlington. The group has been working hard to gain the attention of state and local officials, as well as residents, to get action on this major health concern.

- 4. Updates/Discussion (Tracking).
 - a. Urban Ecology Framework.
D. Morgan has circulated the final report he coordinated with Tufts students studying the urban ecology of Arlington. He reports a positive response and will continue to monitor ways to integrate this framework with ongoing open space and resiliency planning projects.
 - b. Artificial Turf (Study Committee, PFAS Panel Discussion 6/29).
D. Morgan noted that Health and Human Services is convening the committee to study artificial turf, as voted at Town Meeting. The upcoming discussion on PFAS on 6/29 will address related concerns.
 - c. CPA FY23 Updates (Cooke's Hollow, Mt. Gilboa, Hurd, RFP playground).
D. Morgan reported that Martha Lyons, landscape architect, has been hired for the Mt. Gilboa project and will start in September. Hatch designers are working on concept designs for the Cooke's Hollow project



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following an on-site event in early June and meetings with other groups including the Disability Commission, Police and Cusack housing representatives. The Hurd Field project is completed and the facility has been reopened. The Robbins Field Park playground design has been finalized after extensive community input.

- d. CPA FY24 (Hill's Hill, Invasives, Mill Brook, Pond Lane, Foot of Rocks).
B. McBride will be involved with the Hill's Hill project when it starts. D. Morgan is preparing RFPs to be sent out in July for the Invasives, Mill Brook and Pond Lane projects. No further information was available on the Foot of the Rocks project.
- e. 40B Comprehensive Permit Projects.
A. LeRoyer reported no recent news on the Mugar project. The 1021-25 Mass Ave. project has been approved with conditions by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- f. July and August meetings.
OSC will not hold regular meetings in July and August, unless called to address some new concern. Instead, members will be invited to an informal gathering on July 27, with details to be circulated later.

2023 Meetings.

(4th Thursdays except Nov. and Dec.): September 28, October 26, November 9, December 14.